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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY USSR: Siberia

DATE: 25X1

SUBJECT Political, Economic and Military Information:
 Conditions in Soviet Camp for Japanese POW's in
 Grodekovo Area

INFO.

DIST. 21 January 1948

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Soviet Use of Japanese POW Labor

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1. The POW's of were disarmed near Suifenho (131-09, 44-23) and put to work transporting plundered goods and "war booty" from the Japanese Kwantung Army stores in Manchuria to Siberia. Materiel taken from Manchuria included arms, ammunition, gunpowder, grain and clothing. After completing this transportation the POW's were put through a processing center, where the officers were separated from the NCO's and enlisted men, the latter being divided into battalions for assignment to specific details.

Treatment and Political Indoctrination of Japanese POW's

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2. The POW's had sufficient food but their diet lacked vegetables; as a result, many of them contracted beri-beri. Others suffered from malnutrition, and many lost their sight. The hospitals were inadequate, being stocked with no medicines except aspirin and stomach-ache medicine. One-third of the prisoners comprising the three battalions of prisoners confined in source's camp died of malnutrition, typhus and the cold.
 3. Each POW received a ration of ten cigarettes a week. There was no clothing distributed during the winter.
 4. Lectures designed to convert the prisoners to Communism were given regularly, usually by a Korean interpreter. Pamphlets extolling Communism were also distributed to the POW's, often during their rest periods.

Conditions of the Soviet Residents of the Area

5. Soviet residents observed along source's route of travel (he did not enter the city of Grodekovo) were seen begging for food from the trucks transporting provisions. During rest periods children and old men scrambled for scraps left by the Soviet guards.

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Soviet Military Information

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6. There were many Koreans among the Soviet troops assigned to the POW camp guard, and many women soldiers in the Soviet transportation units. These units used, for the most part, German- and American-made vehicles. The Soviet-made vehicles were constantly breaking down and were used only when other makes were not available.
7. The Soviet soldiers' clothing was shoddy, most of them wearing rubber tennis shoes, some of which did not match and were tied with twine and string. Officers carried pistols. Each Soviet soldier carried an automatic Mogan rifle.

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